United Nations A/C.4/54/L.1

General Assembly

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Fifty-fourth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Organization of work

Note by the Chairman

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for consideration are listed in document A/C.4/54/1. Background information on those items, including references to related documentation, is set out in the annotated preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fourth session (A/54/100).[1]

2. The General Assembly, in rule 99, paragraph (b), of its rules of procedure, calls on each Main Committee to adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated for the consideration of each item.

3. To that end, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) may wish to consider adopting as a provisional guideline the approximate dates set out below for the consideration of the items on its agenda with the understanding that it may be revised periodically, as appropriate, according to the availability of related documents. The Committee will also combine consideration of specific items on its agenda in order to ensure full and efficient utilization of the conference facilities allocated to it. As indicated below, Conference Services has allocated 29 meetings to this Committee and it urges the Committee to make every effort to complete its work within the allotted time. Should the Committee wish to change the dates for consideration of items, it would still have to work within the dates and times indicated below. There will be little possibility of servicing informal consultations, working groups or meetings of regional or other groups of Member States. It is essential that available conference services be utilized to the fullest extent.

99-26918 (E) 200999

Agenda items	*Dates for consideration*
Organization of work	22 September – a.m.
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 18)	4 October – a.m. 5 October – a.m. 6 October – p.m. 7 October – p.m.
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (item 92)	8 October – a.m.
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 93)	
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (item 94)	
Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapter VII (section D) (item 12)]	
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 95)	
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (item 89)	11 October – p.m. 12 October – a.m. 13 October – a.m. 14 October – a.m.
Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 90)	18 October – a.m. 19 October – p.m. 20 October – p.m. 21 October – p.m.
International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 87)	25 October – p.m. 26 October – p.m. 27 October – a.m. 28 October – p.m. 29 October – a.m.
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (item 88)	2 November – p.m. 3 November – a.m./p.m. 4 November – p.m.
Effects of atomic radiation (item 86)	10 November – p.m. 11 November – a.m. 12 November – a.m.
Questions relating to information (item 91)	15 November – a.m. 16 November – p.m. 17 November – p.m. 18 November – p.m.

4. In the preparation of the above timetable, the Chairman was guided by the following considerations:

(a) In accordance with established procedures and practices and bearing in mind the availability of documentation, the Committee may wish to hold one general debate covering agenda items 18, 92–94 and 12 and 95 and individual debates on agenda items 86–91, on the understanding that draft resolutions and/or decisions will be considered separately;

(b) In accordance with established procedure, the General Assembly is expected to take up in plenary meetings the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the

Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 18) as a whole following the completion of its consideration of other decolonization items allocated to it and after the Committee has completed that aspect of its work for the session;

(c) Representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories and petitioners will be heard as early as possible during the Committee's consideration of the related items;

(d) Bodies and individuals having an interest in the questions of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (item 53) and East Timor (item 96) will be heard in the Committee in conjunction with the consideration of the items in plenary meetings.

5. Subject to the above provisional programme of work being acceptable to the Committee and in order to facilitate its work, the Chairman wishes to suggest that the list of speakers in the general debate covering its agenda items 18, 92–94 and 12 and 95 be closed on Monday, 4 October, at 6 p.m. The Committee will take further decisions relating to the general debates on the remaining items at the appropriate time.

6. The Committee wishes also to draw attention to the decisions of the General Assembly on the organization of its work contained in document A/54/250, sections II.B–II.N.

7. Members are also requested to bear in mind the General Assembly's decision that morning and afternoon meetings should start promptly at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. both for all plenary meetings and for meetings of the Main Committees during the fifty-fourth session. It was also decided that, as a cost-saving measure, every effort should be made to ensure that plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees adjourn by 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., respectively, and that no meetings should be held at weekends (A/54/250, para. 12). Members' attention is also drawn to the Assembly's decision to waive at this session the quorum required, under rule 108 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, for the Chairman to declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed (see A/54/250, para. 13).

8. In view of the limited number of meetings available to the Committee, it is suggested that the time limit for statements be set at 10 minutes, with the exception of statements made by the spokesmen of groups of delegations, which would be limited to 15 minutes.

9. In order to allow the distribution of prepared texts of statements made in the Committee to delegations, specialized agencies, observers, interpreters and record-writers, 300 copies are required. A minimum of 30 copies should be given in advance of delivery of the statement, in order to help the Secretariat to provide the best possible service.

Notes

[1] For the final list of items adopted by the General Assembly, see document A/54/251.

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Fifty-fourth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 90
Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Argentina, Canada, Egypt, Japan, Nigeria and Poland: draft resolution

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2006 (XIX) of 18 February 1965 and all other relevant resolutions,

Recalling in particular its resolution 53/58 of 3 December 1998,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization,[1]

Affirming that the efforts of the United Nations in the peaceful settlement of disputes, including through its peacekeeping operations, are indispensable,

Convinced of the need for the United Nations to continue to improve its capabilities in the field of peacekeeping and to enhance the effective and efficient deployment of its peacekeeping operations,

Considering the contribution that all States Members of the Organization make to peacekeeping,

Taking note of the widespread interest in contributing to the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations expressed by many Member States, in particular troop-contributing countries,

Bearing in mind the continuous necessity of preserving the efficiency and strengthening the effectiveness of the work of the Special Committee,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations;[2]

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/54/1).
[2] A/54/87.

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2. *Endorses* the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee, contained in paragraphs 43 to 130 of its report;

3. *Urges* Member States, the Secretariat and relevant organs of the United Nations to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee;

4. *Reiterates* that those Member States that become personnel contributors to United Nations peacekeeping operations in years to come or participate in the future in the Special Committee for three consecutive years as observers shall, upon request in writing to the Chairman of the Committee, become members at the following session of the Committee;

5. *Decides* that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, shall continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects and shall review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider any new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in this field;

6. *Requests* the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

7. *Decides* to keep open during its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects".

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Fifty-fourth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 18
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman

Question of Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered in depth the question of Western Sahara,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling its resolution 53/64 of 3 December 1998,

Recalling also the agreement in principle given on 30 August 1988 by the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Rio de Oro to the proposals of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in the context of their joint mission of good offices,

Recalling further Security Council resolutions 658 (1990) of 27 June 1990 and 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council approved the settlement plan for Western Sahara,[1]

Recalling all the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions relating to the question of Western Sahara,

Reaffirming the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara, as provided for in the settlement plan,

[1] See *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-fifth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1990*, document S/21360; and ibid., *Forty-sixth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1991*, document S/22464.

99-28736 (E) 051099

Noting with satisfaction the entry into force of the ceasefire in accordance with the proposal of the Secretary-General, and stressing the importance it attaches to the maintenance of the ceasefire as an integral part of the settlement plan,

Also noting with satisfaction the agreements[2] reached by the two parties during their private direct talks aimed at the implementation of the settlement plan, and stressing the importance it attaches to a full, fair and faithful implementation of the settlement plan and the agreements aimed at its implementation,

Further noting with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the settlement plan since December 1997,

Taking note of Security Council resolutions 1131 (1997) of 29 September 1997 and 1198 (1998) of 18 September 1998, 1204 (1998) of 30 October 1998, 1215 (1998) of 17 December 1998, 1224 (1999) of 28 January 1999, 1228 (1999) of 11 February 1999, 1232 (1999) of 30 March 1999, 1235 (1999) of 30 April 1999, 1238 (1999) of 14 May 1999 and 1263 (1999) of 13 September 1999,

Welcoming the acceptance by the two parties of the detailed modalities for the implementation of the Secretary-General's package of measures relating to the identification of voters, the appeals process and the revised implementation timetable,[3]

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[4]

Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General,[5]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Again notes with satisfaction* the agreements[2] reached between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Rio de Oro for the implementation of the settlement plan[1] during their private direct talks under the auspices of James Baker III, the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, and urges the parties to implement those agreements fully and in good faith;

3. *Commends* the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for their efforts in reaching those agreements as well as the two parties for the cooperation they have shown, and urges them to continue this cooperation in order to facilitate the speedy implementation of the settlement plan;

4. *Urges* the two parties to continue their cooperation with the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy, as well as with his Special Representative, and to refrain from undertaking anything that would undermine the implementation of the settlement plan and the agreements reached for its implementation;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress achieved in connection with the implementation of the settlement plan, and in this respect calls upon the two parties to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General, his Personal Envoy and his Special Representative in implementing the various phases of the settlement plan;

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[2] Ibid., *Fifty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1997*, documents S/1997/742 and Add.1.

[3] See S/1999/483/Add.1.

[4] A/54/23 (Part II), chap. IX.

[5] A/54/337.

6. *Urges* the two parties to implement faithfully and loyally the Secretary-General's package of measures relating to the identification of voters, the appeals process and the revised implementation timetable;

7. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara, as provided for in the settlement plan;

8. *Reiterates its support* for further efforts of the Secretary-General for the organization and the supervision by the United Nations, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, of a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara that is impartial and free of all constraints, in conformity with Security Council resolutions 658 (1990) and 690 (1991), by which the Council approved the settlement plan for Western Sahara;

9. *Takes note* of Security Council resolutions 1131 (1997), 1238 (1999) and 1263 (1999);

10. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to consider the situation in Western Sahara, bearing in mind the positive ongoing implementation of the settlement plan, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

11. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 18
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Question of Gibraltar

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

The General Assembly, recalling its decision 53/420 of 3 December 1998, and recalling at the same time that the statement agreed to by the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at Brussels on 27 November 1984[1] stipulates, *inter alia*, the following:

> "The establishment of a negotiating process aimed at overcoming all the differences between them over Gibraltar and at promoting cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis on economic, cultural, touristic, aviation, military and environmental matters. Both sides accept that the issues of sovereignty will be discussed in that process. The British Government will fully maintain its commitment to honour the wishes of the people of Gibraltar as set out in the preamble of the 1969 Constitution",

takes note of the fact that, as part of this process, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Spain and of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland hold annual meetings alternately in each capital, the most recent of which took place in London on 10 December 1997, and urges both Governments to continue their negotiations with the object of reaching a definitive solution to the problem of Gibraltar in the light of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations.

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[1] A/39/732, annex.

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Fifty-fourth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 95
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

Algeria, Argentina, China, Cuba, Egypt, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Philippines, Singapore and United Republic of Tanzania: draft resolution

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/63 of 3 December 1998,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories,[1] prepared pursuant to its resolution 845 (IX) of 22 November 1954,

Conscious of the importance of promoting the educational advancement of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Strongly convinced that the continuation and expansion of offers of scholarships is essential in order to meet the increasing need of students from Non-Self-Governing Territories for educational and training assistance, and considering that students in those Territories should be encouraged to avail themselves of such offers,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have made scholarships available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Invites* all States to make or continue to make generous offers of study and training facilities to the inhabitants of those Territories that have not yet attained self-government or independence and, wherever possible, to provide travel funds to prospective students;

[1] A/54/267.

99-29019 (E) 061099

4. *Urges* the administering Powers to take effective measures to ensure the widespread and continuous dissemination in the Territories under their administration of information relating to offers of study and training facilities made by States and to provide all the necessary facilities to enable students to avail themselves of such offers;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to the present resolution.